



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Engineer Research and
Development Center

Water Detection Response Team (WDRT)

Description and Background

In January 1985, the Office of the Chief of Engineers established a multi-agency team to assist well-drilling detachments from all the military services in locating sources of ground water. This action was made in response to a growing concern by many, and expressed best by a former director of Combat Developments, U.S. Army Engineer School: "The number one problem facing the Army well-drilling program remains our inability to detect subsurface water prior to drilling." The team was designed around four components called elements: the data base, remote sensing, supporting specialist and geophysical elements. The team is staffed on an as-needed basis from a pool of civilian scientists and engineers representing various government agencies.

Key Capabilities

The WDRT is the Department of Defense's (DOD) prime organization for assisting military well drillers, whether for military or humanitarian, or nation-building activities. Its primary function is to assist and advise well-drilling teams on the location of the best well-drilling sites and depths, and to provide information on drilling conditions for logistical planners. A staff of ground water experts is available on-call to provide information and assistance, and to produce studies for military well-drilling-related activities. The team possesses an inventory of state-of-the-art remote sensing and geophysical equipment, and has numerous bibliographic sources readily available for most areas of the world.

Current Status

Since 1985, the WDRT has participated in military exercises, such as NUEVOS HORIZONTES, BRIGHT STAR, TEAM SPIRIT, BLAZING TRAILS, GALLANT EAGLE, AHUAS TARA and FUERTES CAMINOS. The team participated in Operations Desert Storm and Restore Hope, and was readied for on-site participation in these operations. The WDRT has had a better than 95% success rate for wells drilled with WDRT support in the last seven years.

Point of Contact

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